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According to refugees who have fled from Albania to Yugoslavia and Italy, the Soviet and German experts are converting the island into a rocket-bomb station and are turning the Gulf of Valona into one huge naval base.

The people of Valona are not Communists, and when the Soviet delegation first arrived in the port, the mayor protested this arrival to the Albanian government, while the garrison commander publicly denounced the presence of Germans among the Soviets. Enver Hoxha stopped these objections by announcing that any further protests against the Soviets would be considered treason.

Shortly afterward, MVD squads arrived and immediately placed the entire city under surveillance. All the inhabitants of Valona who did not obtain Soviet passes were expelled from the city and even from the suburbs. It is estimated that half of the 9,000 Albanians in Valona were expelled. The people remaining in the town were forbidden to leave without obtaining a special pass. After this expulsion, Soviet ships began to bring loads of people daily to the city, none of them Albanians. It is believed that these people were forced laborers from distant areas under Soviet control. These forced laborers were placed in well-guarded camps outside the city.

The populations of Valona and the small cities within a 25-mile radius were ordered to register for work on a "construction project." Even boys and girls 12 and 13 years old were employed in this work. Many of them have succeeded in escaping the Soviet oppression because other Albanians are always ready to help them.

Before World War II, German experts visited Saseno Island and decided that the Italian military installations there were inadequate: the torpedo-launching equipment had too short a range; the batteries were equipped with obsolete guns; and there were no antiaircraft installations. However, the Italian-constructed caves, rooms, and corridors were in perfect condition.

Today, all these installations have been brought up to date. The outmoded guns have been replaced by the latest Soviet models; certain gun emplacements have been converted to rocket-bomb stations; slave labor has constructed secret channels to connect the tunnels with the sea, thereby establishing an additional defense for the island; and the natural obstacles have been strengthened by the latest-type man-made installations.

The Karaburun Mountains to the southeast have also been converted into a nest of rocket installations. Now, concrete emplacements for heavy machine guns and light artillery are being constructed in the swampy areas to the north. Other slave-labor crews are busy with mysterious constructions on the top of Mt Kanina. It is believed that these are radar installations.

Three airfields are also under construction. They are being built according to the Soviet model used in Vladivostok, with underground petroleum depots and shelters.

The most important installation in the area is the Soviet submarine base, which has been constructed in the inner section of the Gulf of Valona. The rocky cliffs in this area are lined with natural inlets, and the gulf has been cut by a natural dam, 2 miles long, located a few hundred yards in front of these inlets. These inlets are now being converted into submarine pens under the direction of German engineers. A few narrow passageways which have been cut in the dam will be used as exits and entrances to the submarine pens.

It has been reliably learned that there are now many Soviet submarines in Pasha Inlet. These are believed to be the Walther submarines which the Germans were making at the end of the war. These Walther submarines are superior to the

- 2 -

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Schnorkels and have a maximum speed of 26 miles per hour, as compared with 16 for the Schnorkels. Although the inventor of this submarine was captured by the British, many of his engineering colleagues are now believed to be working in Soviet ports in the Black Sea. How many Walther submarines the Soviets now have is a secret, but they are known to have about 260 submarines, together with another 100 under construction.

According to specialists, Valona could accommodate about 60 Walther submarines.

Although Tito's defection has cut off direct Soviet communication with Albania, the Soviets are maintaining communications by an airlift. Four-engine Soviet Tu-2 transport planes make daily trips between Budapest, Sofia, and Tirana.

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- 3 -

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